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NJPAC to celebrate Dr. Martin L. King Jr. holiday

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Green Bay head coach Rav Rhodes fired

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Colin Powell, J.C. Watts called GOP tokens

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Al Gore called Gen. Colin Powell Friday to express his respect for the Gulf War hero after comments by his campaign manager earlier in the week angered the Republican.

Campaign manager Donna Brazile said earlier this week that Republicans "would rather take pictures with black children than feed them," saying they use Powell and Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma, two of the most prominent blacks in the GOP, to improve their image with minorities.

Powell wrote Gore Thursday to say that he was "disappointed and offended" about her comments.

Under mounting criticism, Gore called Powell to express his great respect for the general. "We're friends of long standing... it was a very friendly and warm conversation," Gore said. "I reaffirmed my total respect and regard for him as an American hero, for him as a national leader and for him as a personal friend."

The vice president would not say whether he apologized to Powell for Brazile's comment.

Earlier in the day, Brazile had called Powell and let him



Vice-President Al Gore



General Colin Powell

know that she personally and the Gore campaign consider him "an American hero."

"The Republicans bring out Colin Powell and J.C. Watts because they have no program, no policy," she said in an interview with Bloomberg.com. "They play that game because they have no other game. They have no love and no joy. They'd rather take pictures with black children than feed them."

Earlier in the day, Gore had stood by his campaign manager and publicly praised Powell.

"General Powell is a great hero, who I admire greatly," Gore said. "Having General Powell and Congressman (J.C.) Watts in the Republican Party is, in fact, no substitute for an agenda that supports all of our people, including African-Americans. That is what Donna was trying to say."

He defended Brazile, saying "she's doing a great job and she will continue doing a great job."

Watts, an Oklahoma representative who is chairman of the House Republican conference, called the comments "racist." Watts said he and Powell have "worked hard to help African-Americans, especially children."

AIDS: A rising epidemic among black women

By Gilda Rogers
Staff Writer

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that over 200,000 Americans living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus do not know their HIV status.

The Acquired Immune

Deficiency Syndrome epidemic has increased most dramatically among women. The impact of HIV infection on Black American and Latino women has been disproportionate.

While they represent 25 percent of women in the United States, they account for 80 percent of AIDS cases among females.

Women who have developed AIDS by the age of 30 were most likely infected while in their teens or early twenties.

A HIV-positive woman's decision to have children may have serious ramifications. Of all children reported with AIDS, 91 percent were born to HIV-positive mothers.

More than 80 percent of reported AIDS cases in children under age 13 are among Black Americans and Latinos.

"The incidence of HIV has nearly doubled within the last 10 years among women, making AIDS one of the top killers of women aged 24-44," said CDC Executive Director Steven Klindt.

Sean 'Puffy' Combs' dilemma

NEW YORK — In the 1990s rap mogul Sean "Puffy" Combs saw the rise of his Bad Boy record label and career skyrocket with his bad boy image.

But now in the new millennium, is the bad boy image bringing him down?

Recently, Combs, girlfriend Jennifer Lopez, and Bad Boy protégé Jamal "Shyne" Barrow (the 19-year-old up and coming rap talent whose voice sounds remarkably like the late Notorious B.I.G., and who was in the middle of a bidding war with Combs and Def Jam mogul Russell Simmons) were involved with a shooting incident at Club New York.

Although facts are sketchy as the story develops, Combs was sued Friday for \$50 million by a man who was shot in a Times Square-area nightclub last week.

Robert Thompson, 38, of Danbury, Connecticut, alleges he was shot in the right shoulder by Combs Barrow during a dispute in Club New York on Dec. 27.

Two other people were wounded in the shooting, and one is suing Combs and Barrow for \$100 million.

Barrow, 19, has been indicted on weapons and attempted murder charges.

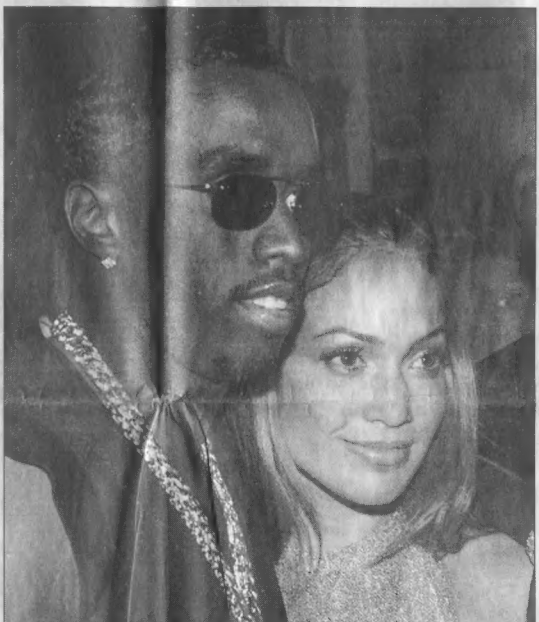
Combs has said he was not involved in the shooting. He is charged with illegal possession of a gun that was found in his sport utility vehicle minutes after he and girlfriend Jennifer Lopez fled the club.

Kenneth Nolan, Thompson's lawyer, said Combs was sued because it is unclear whether the rapper encouraged Barrow to fire and whether Combs had a gun in the club.

Nolan said that if he learns that Combs did nothing illegal, he will amend the complaint.

With all the new things the new year held for Combs, why is all this drama surrounding the hip-hop star?

Some may link these troubles to some that he had last year, particularly the dismissal of Arista Records CEO Clive Davis, whose label has a distribution deal with Combs' Bad Boy label. Davis has been forced to resign by BMG executives for what they claim is a com-



Sean "Puffy" Combs and Jennifer Lopez in happier times.

pany policy stating that executives over a certain age must retire from their positions.

But industry buzz has said that the BMG executives were disgusted with Davis for giving Combs the money to produce his second album, "Forever," which had disappointing records sales compared to his first.

Others look to the Bad Boy

himself, whose seems to make an effort to keep his drug image alive. Although Combs has a house in the Hamptons, an apartment building in Manhattan, and a private helicopter to transport him around when he is not driving his baby blue Bentley, or enjoying his other luxuries, the rap star has been embroiled in drug-like behavior since his entrance onto the scene.

Last year Combs assaulted

record executive and Nas' manager Steve Stoute over a scene in the Nas' video, "Hate Me Now." Many also remember the East coast-west coast turmoil that led to the deaths of Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G.

Whether it is Combs himself or the "playablers" out there who increase the number of minority people, it will be a long time before the smoke clears for Puff Daddy.

Black colleges threatened by racists letters

OXFORD, Pa. (AP) — The nation's oldest historically black college has tightened security on campus after receiving threatening letters that contained racist slurs and pictures of the Confederate flag, school officials said Friday.

Over the last two weeks, Lincoln University was among at least three other black colleges and universities to have received similar anonymous letters, all postmarked Fayetteville, N.C.

They contained threats directed at unspecified black colleges and universities and prominent black figures, like Michael Jordan and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

The letters warned that in 2000, "the war" against blacks will escalate. And each letter ended with the words: "the white race will be preserved forever."

The other schools reported to have been targeted are Nashville's Fisk University, Raleigh's Shaw University and Meharry Medical College and Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala.

Officials at Lincoln, a four-year liberal arts institution, have turned the letters over to the state police and the district attorney of Chester County for investigation, said the school's director of public safety and security James Robinson.

"Today, violence in the workplace is a very real concern," he said. "The security of university employees, students and its facilities are important. We ask that our employees be vigilant in their work areas and make sure that unauthorized people are not wandering campus unattended."

Officials at the other institutions have also turned over the letters to local police. The U.S. postal inspector and the FBI's hate crimes unit have been notified and are conducting their own investigation, school administrators said.

In another incident at Lincoln, a white man who identified himself as a Klanman drove to the university on Dec. 28, while its 2,100 students were away for the holiday break. A member of the campus security turned him away from the gate entrance after he asked permission to enter grounds to plant a tree.

Before driving away, the man threatened to return, they said.

ABC, NBC announce agreements with NAACP

NEW YORK — National Association for the Advancement of Colored People President and CEO, Kweisi Mfume, NBC and ABC announced agreements Wednesday to adopt goals and timetables to increase opportunities for people of color at the television network.

NBC President Bob Wright announced his agreement first in a live press conference, removing the threat of a boycott the NAACP has been considering last summer when it drew attention to the lack of minority actors on new fall shows.

The far-reaching agreement, which includes initiatives that would also make a steady progression toward the full inclusion of people of color in employment, casting and image portrayal, content creation and development, program production, distribution, promotion, financing and professional services.

"The NAACP has worked extremely hard with our coalition partners over the last six months to create opportunities for qualified men and women of color," said Kweisi Mfume. "Their ability now to significantly impact executive,

their efforts to make their network an industry model. Out of an air of confrontation has now come real progress."

Wright stated: "NBC is committed to making sure that equal opportunities exist for everyone including African Americans, Latino Americans, Asian Americans and Native Americans — both in front and behind the camera. We have always felt that it is in our best interest — from a human and a business perspective — to place a high priority on diversity. We believe, however, there are areas where we need to do better. Working with the NAACP and a coalition of other minority organizations, we have come up with a series of aggressive initiatives to widen the pipeline of diverse talent and raise awareness in our community on these issues."

Effective immediately, NBC agrees to use its best efforts to increase deals with other minority-owned production companies and will conduct senior level reviews designed to ensure that such deals are fully commensurate with current marketplace compensation levels.

Moreover, NBC will recruit a minority sourcing executive who will be assigned the responsibility to increase the amount of products and services bought from minority vendors. The network plans to increase the number of minority lawyers in its in-house department and continue to retain diverse outside lawyers.

ABC's deal similarly concentrates more on changing the behind-the-scenes operations of the network in the hope that it eventually makes a difference in what goes on the air.

"It is just one step on a long road toward creating a diverse environment," ABC President Patricia Fili-Krushel said Friday.

ABC has agreed to assign high-level mentors to minority employees, set up a diversity training program and consider a producer's diversity credit when deciding who will run its programs.

The "statement of understanding" the NAACP also sets up a series of meetings between ABC executives in charge of personnel and representatives of the civil



NAACP President Kweisi Mfume

rights organization.

"We think the agreement makes it clear that increased opportunities for people of color is a priority at ABC," Mfume said.

Mfume said he expects to reach agreements with CBS and Fox within the next week or so. The agreement with CBS will address the number of minorities onscreen more than the other deals have, Mfume said.

Meanwhile, the NAACP's deal with NBC has angered a coalition of Hispanic, Asian-American and Indian groups that had thought they were all working together. They have even set up their own meeting with Wright.

Mfume "agreed to join this coalition, and before we knew it he held a press conference announcing this. Not good," Esteban Torres, the coalition's Hispanic representative and a former congressman, told the Los Angeles Times.

Mfume said he always made it clear to NBC that he was representing more than just his own organization.

"We've never seen this as a black-white situation," he said.

production and talent ranks of network television is greatly enhanced. The agreement that we are announcing today is unprecedented and clearly makes those opportunities a reality. Bob Wright, Scott Sassa and the people of NBC are to be commended for

record executive and Nas' manager Steve Stoute over a scene in the Nas' video, "Hate Me Now." Many also remember the East coast-west coast turmoil that led to the deaths of Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G.

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Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

PLAINFIELD - If you're interested in helping students learn skills that will help them advance in their careers, then attend Union County College Foundation Circle of Friends second meeting at 7 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Plainfield campus of UCC. For more information, call (800) 709-7505.

NEWARK - Registration is underway for Essex County College's On-Campus Continuing Education program. For more information, call (973) 642-2522 or (973) 403-2542.

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on special needs trusts at the New Jersey Law Center at 7 p.m. For more information, call (732) 246-5000.

NEW BRUNSWICK - The Shoestring Players are enrolling now for their winter drama program: "Mythmaking." Open to students, grades 4 - 8. The 7-week class will meet on Saturdays, Feb. 8 thru Mar. 25. For cost and additional information, call (732) 932-9772.

JERSEY CITY - An opening reception of Jim Gross' recent works will be held at the Jersey City Museum between 5 - 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

EDISON - The NAACP Metuchen-Edison Area Branch General Public Meeting will be held at the Edison Job Corps at 7 p.m. The topic will be Open Forum - Issues of Concern. For more information, call (732) 205-9888, ext. 1.

JERSEY CITY - Amir Baraka & Rev. R. Brower will give a lecture at the Afro-American Museum at 7 p.m. For more information, call (201) 547-5392.

JERSEY CITY - The Jersey City Museum hosts an art exhibit on the change of environment in 19th and 20th century. Call (201) 547-4517 for information.

JERSEY CITY - The Jersey City Museum presents the works of contemporary painter Jim Goss. Call (201) 547-4514 for information.

MONTCLAIR - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Montclair Municipal Bldg. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information, call (973) 621-4915.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

NEW BRUNSWICK - The State Theater presents an evening celebrating the Hungarian culture in "Solent: The Tango of the East." Call (732) 246-7469 for information.

ENGLEWOOD - The John Hams Center Arts presents an evening of "New Age" music featuring Liz Story and The Angels of Venice. Call (201) 567-3600 for information.

LINCROFT - The Monmouth County Recreation Department hosts the 10th Annual Jersey Home Show at Brookdale Community College through Jan. 16. Call 1-(800)-332-3975 for information.

NEWARK - Unique Travel Club hosts a "Midwinter 2000 Winter Gateway Ski Trip" to Hudson Valley Resort in Catskills, NY through Jan. 16. Call (973) 376-1513 ext. 352 for information.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

PLAINFIELD - Taste foods from the many cultures of Plainfield. Attend the "Trip Around the World" Buffet from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Jefferson School Cafeteria.

JERSEY CITY - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. video screening will be held from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the Jersey City Museum, 4th Fl.

NEWARK - The New Jersey Historical Society (NJHS) offers fun activity on being a NJHS detective at 10 a.m. (973) 596-8500.

LINCROFT - The 21st Annual MACO Juried Exhibition offers participants many exciting things with multimedia at the Monmouth Museum. Call (732) 747-2266 for information.

NORTH BRANCH - The Printmaking Council of New Jersey hosts its Printmaking Council Members Show. Call (908) 725-2110 for information.

ALLAIRE - The Mid Winter Invitational Antiques Show and Sale gives antique lovers a chance to view and buy one of a kind work produce and among the best sculptures in the area at the Allaire Village. Call (732) 932-2253 for information and time.

ELIZABETH - The City of Elizabeth hosts its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at Elizabeth High School through Jan. 17. Call (908) 820-4220 for information.

LINCROFT - The Monmouth County Public Library offers an outdoor cross country ski clinic session at Thompson Park at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. (732) 842-4000.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

PLAINFIELD - In tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an Ecumenical Worship Service, "Hold The Torch High and Keep The Dream Alive" will be held 5 p.m. at Calvary Baptist church. This event is sponsored by Concerned Urban Clergy.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

PLAINFIELD - The 2nd annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March, "Preserving the Dream" will be held at 8 a.m. sharp from Park-Madison to Plainfield High School. This event is sponsored by Human Relations Commission.

PLAINFIELD - A Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Breakfast featuring speaker: Gil Noble, Host of TV's "Like It Is" will be held at 8 a.m. at the Plainfield High School Cafeteria. For tickets, call (908) 754-4863 or (908) 754-8532.

WEST ORANGE - The Maurice Levin Theater presents a high-tech laser show. Call (973) 736-3200 for information.

JERSEY CITY - New Jersey City University will have an art exhibit of wood block prints from printmakers Jiangsu Province at the school's Contemporary Gallery. Call (201) 209-3243 for information.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

NEWARK - A rent control testimony hearing will be held at City Hall at 10 a.m. Call (973) 733-3675 for information.

WEST ORANGE - The Office of the County Clerk will be at West Orange Town Hall between 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (973) 621-4915.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

NEWARK - A municipal council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at City Hall. Council Chamber. Call (973) 733-3044 for information.

PORT WASHINGTON, PA. - The Greater Philadelphia Sports Travel and Outdoor Show returns with exciting exhibits and demonstrations for the true sportsman at the Fort Washington Expo Center through Jan. 23. Call (603) 431-4315 for information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

EDISON - The 33rd Annual NJ Trailer and Camping Show, one of the largest RV and camping shows in the state, takes place at the NJ Convention and Expo Center through Jan. 23. Call (908) 382-5009 for information.

NEWARK - An Enterprise Community Board Meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. at City Hall, Room 8-23. For information, call (973) 733-4331.

NEWARK - A Central Planning Board Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in City Hall, Council Chamber. For more information, call (973) 733-6554.

ATLANTIC CITY - The Sail Expo is the largest indoor air sailboat show on the east coast. The event includes boats, accessories and apparel. It will take place at the Atlantic City Convention Center through Jan. 23. Call 1-(800) 332-3976 for information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

TRENTON - An art exhibit, "Myself, My Camera, My World," third annual exhibit of photographs by Trenton Teens and pre-teens will be held at the Trenton Public Library. Call (609) 382-7188.

TRENTON - Mercer County Community College (MCCC) presents the play "Jenny and the Jersey Devil" at the MCCC Kelsey Theater. Call (609) 884-4444 for information.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

NEWARK - The New Jersey Historical Society (NJHS) hosts an exhibit on being a New Jersey from then and now at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Call (973) 596-8500 for more information.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

NEW YORK - Kids Night On Broadway offers each adult who purchases a full price ticket to Broadway show one free ticket for a child aged 8-18. The Broadway Line at 1-888-broadway, or 212-302-4111.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

NEW BRUNSWICK - The New Jersey Bar Foundation hosts a seminar on wills and estate planning at the New Jersey Law Center at 7 p.m. (732) 249-5000.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

NEWARK - 1900 Friends Education Policy Luncheon returns to the Newark Club with special guest speaker Justice Alan Hand at 12 p.m. (973) 921-6631.

Rotary Club honors city hospital's pediatric team



NEWARK - From left, Rotary District 7470 Governor Brad Jenkins, Rotary International President Carlo Ravizza of Milan, Italy and Rotary Gift of Life 7470 Representative Mary Campo present the Paul Harris Fellowship to William DeCampi of the Children's Cardiac Center at Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. The award recognized the hospital and its pediatric team for providing life-saving open heart surgery to children in need from around the world through the Rotary's Gift to Life Program.

Bloomfield College student gets N.J. Nets scholarship



BLOOMFIELD - Bloomfield College sophomore Nongma Green of Newark recently received a \$4,000 scholarship paid over four years from the New Jersey Nets Foundation through the Community Youth Organization. Bloomfield College will match this scholarship and will provide a mentor to Green as part of the program. The presentation was made at center court before the start of the Nets' game against the Philadelphia 76ers last month. Green, a Creative Arts and Technology major specializing in computer graphics, holds a 3.03 grade point average.

Cooper Union selects NACME President as its new leader



NEW YORK - Dr. George Campbell Jr., who for 10 years has led the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, a not-for-profit corporation devoted to increasing access to careers in science-based disciplines, has been selected as president of The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, effective July 1, 2000.

Campbell is the first Black American to hold that position at the college's 141 year history. During his tenure at NACME, he gained national prominence as an advocate for both quality and equality in science, mathematics and engineering education. Under his leadership, the organization developed new processes for identifying students with academic promise and won both the 1996 President's Award for Excellence and the 1998 U.S. Department of Labor EPIC Award for Exemplary Public Interest Contribution. NACME is the nation's largest private source of scholarships.

NJCU holds mini-conference on higher education opportunities



JERSEY CITY - From left, Diane Garcia Hungridge, Manalapan, a NJCU alumna; Ralph McMillan, Irvington, addiction therapist; Dr. Myrna Erlich, director of NJCU's Project Mentor; Cheryl McKay NJCU graduate assistant; and keynote speakers David Katz and Wayne Miesel recently attended New Jersey City University's seventh annual mini-conference on New Jersey Higher Education Opportunities for Students with Learning Disabilities/Differences. The conference is a program of addresses and workshops designed for students with learning disabilities and their parents, guidance counselors, child study team members, and teachers.

Community activist and writer honored at NJCU



JERSEY CITY - Activist and journalist Leanne Feinberg (left), a prominent figure in international lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender movements who is well known for working to forge bonds between these communities, delivered a recent lecture at New Jersey City University on Trans Liberation: The Basis for Unity. At a reception that preceded the lecture, the guest speaker, author of "Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink and Blue," "Stone Butch Blues," and "Transgender Warriors: Making History from the Past to the Present," autographed copies for (from the left): Liza Fiol-Matta of New York City, a NJCU associate professor of women studies; Karla Watkins of Jersey City, an NJCU senior majoring in English; Dr. David Blackmore of Jersey City, assistant professor in English and program coordinator; and Shanette Steed of New Jersey, a NJCU junior majoring in English and minoring in women's studies. "Stone Butch Blues" won the American Library Association Award for Gay and Lesbian Literature.

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— Paul Robeson

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NATIONAL

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ZERO TOLERANCE
POLICY EFFECTING
BLACK STUDENTS
MORE THAN WHITES

NHPA — Black students are being expelled and suspended at a higher rate than their White counterparts, according to a study by Oakland Research Center in Oakland, Calif.

According to the data from a small sample of school districts across the country during 1998 and 1999, Black students have been disciplined at a more severe rate since the "zero tolerance" policy became widely adopted. In Los Angeles, Black students made up 14 percent of the population but accounted for 30 percent of those suspended or expelled. White students made up 1 percent of the population and only eight percent of those suspended or expelled group. In Chicago there was an even bigger disparity. Blacks made up 53 percent of the student population and 83 percent of those expelled/suspended while Whites were 10 percent of the population and eight percent of those disciplined. Other cities in the study were Austin, Texas; Boston, Mass.; Denver, Colo.; Durham, N.C.; Phoenix, Ariz.; San Francisco, Calif.; Providence, R.I.; and Columbia, S.C.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
FILES SUIT
AGAINST ADAM'S
MARK HOTEL CHAIN

NHPA — After a federal investigation, the Justice Department has filed suit against the

Adams Mark hotel chain alleging racial discrimination. The hotel is accused of overcharging Black customers, refusing them rooms or providing substandard accommodations.

This is the first time the Justice Department has taken a hotel to court.

AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS
JOINING NAACP IN
RECORD NUMBERS

NHPA — Immigrants from Africa are increasingly becoming members of the NAACP, 4/ according to chairman Julian Bond.

The longtime civil rights leader and television commentator recently delivered the keynote address, Moving from the Margins to the Mainstream: Empowering New Immigrants in the Political System, at a seminar sponsored by The African-American Action Network for Peace in Arlington, Va.

The seminar examined the recent surge of interest by African immigrants to actively participate in civil rights and political organizations.

At 90 years old, the NAACP is the largest and oldest civil rights organization. It has a half-million youth and adult members throughout the United States and the world.

PROPOSED SEX
WORKERS TRADE
UNION REJECTED IN
ZAMBIA

LUSAKA (JPS) — Sex workers in Zambia have failed to secure the support of the powerful Zambia Congress of Trade Unions to form a trade union. Instead, the proposal has sparked a furious debate in the southern African country.

"The congress will not support the establishment of a trade union whose existence is in opposition to the laws of the land," says ZCTU secretary general Sylvester Tembo.

Under Zambian law, sex work is a misdemeanor punishable by up to one month in prison with the option of a fine.

"The planned establishment of this union poses a great challenge to the church," adds Tembo referring to a controversial decision made by President Frederick Chiluba eight years ago that "made Zambia a Christian nation." In 1995, the parliament, which is dominated by members of Chiluba's Movement for Multiparty Democracy, incorporated the decree in the country's revised constitution.

Businessman gives \$1 million gift to black colleges

NHPA — Four colleges in Atlanta, including three historically Black universities, are recent recipients of a \$1 million donation from a prominent local Black businessman.

The \$4 million gift is from Herman J. Russell, owner of one of the city's largest construction and real estate companies and a founder of The Atlanta Inquirer, and his wife Otelia, has been called the largest single gift promoting Black entrepreneurship made by Black Americans.

"Herman Russell is a dream maker," said Carl V. Patton, president of Georgia State University, one of the awardees. "He believes that anything is possible."

The remaining awardees are three of the Southeast's best known Black higher learning institutions—Morehouse College, Tuskegee University and Clark Atlanta University.

The gift will go to establishing faculty endowments, scholarships, and other support in promoting business. The institutions, in turn, plan on raising an additional \$1 million in matching funds.

"Many of these opportunities will be made available to minorities and students whose dreams might not otherwise be

achieved," said Russell during a press conference last month in which the donation was announced.

"My goal is to provide additional resources to encourage (these) students to become entrepreneurs. If my family and I can help them grow and build on their already strong foundations, it may be the greatest building project we have ever undertaken," he said.

The donation will fund various business-based projects at the four schools. Tuskegee will develop its architectural studies, while Clark Atlanta will endow an academic chair in the name of the Russells. Georgia State University will use the funds for doctoral grants, and will name its International Center for Entrepreneurship after Russell. Morehouse will establish entrepreneurial leadership programs.

In addition, all four institutions plan to fund an annual lecture series, as well as look for ways to create a combined internship program for their students.

Russell, a 1953 Tuskegee graduate, said he has followed the work of the four schools for decades.

"You will find no finer colleges than Clark Atlanta, More-

house, Tuskegee and J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State," he said. "My wife and my two sons both have degrees from each of these colleges. I am proud to have my name associated with them. I look forward to sharing in the bright future of these institutions."

The respective presidents of Morehouse, Tuskegee and Clark Atlanta had high praise for their new benefactor.

Tuskegee president Benjamin F. Payton said Russell's "spirit of caring and benevolence mirrors the principles," of his alma mater.

Clark Atlanta president Thomas Cole Jr., called the Russell family "wonderful," while Morehouse president Walter F. Massey said his college was proud to have Russell's name associated with its efforts to produce business leaders.

Russell also announced he was donating \$50,000 to establish a foundation honoring the memory of 100 Black Men President Jim George, who recently died.

H.J. Russell and Co. has consistently ranked in the top ten of Black Enterprise magazine's Top 100 Minority Black Enterprises in America.



Hugh B. Price

Roy Lewis Archives

Clinton
signs new
foster care
legislation

WASHINGTON—Soon, President Bill Clinton will sign into law H.R. 3443, The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999.

Based on an initiative proposed by the President and the First Lady, it will help ensure that young people who leave foster care get the tools they need to make the most of their lives. It empowers those leaving foster care by providing them with better educational opportunities, access to health care, training, housing assistance, counseling, and other services.

The new law is the latest instance of the Administration's longstanding commitment to children and families. It is based on statistical information which shows that foster care youth face unique challenges as they enter adulthood.

Nearly 20,000 young people leave foster care each year when they reach age 18 without an adoptive family or other guardian.

Without the emotional, social and financial support that families provide, many of these youth find themselves inadequately prepared for life on their own.

Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent do not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the women have given birth, and less than one in five are completely self-supporting.

Under previous laws, federal financial support for these young people ended just as they were making the transition to independence.

The Act the President will sign today authorizes \$700 million over five years to help these young people cross this critical bridge.

Doubling the Federal Independent Living Program, The Independent Living program run through the states, helps older foster care children earn a high school diploma, participate in vocational training or education, and learn daily living skills such as budgeting, career planning and securing housing and employment.

Today's new law doubles the program's funding to \$140 million per year, and invests \$350 million more over five years in these services.

Under the new law, states are now required to serve youth up to 21 years old, enabling more young people to obtain a college education.



President Bill Clinton signed The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 last month at a special signing event in Washington D.C.

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The new Wild West

What's up with guns? I hung out recently with a group of friends and no one in the crowd was packing, and we had a helluva good time, the best, no casualties, no arrests, no drama. So, it got me to wondering, in light of the Sean "Puffy" Combs incident. When I think guns, I think about the "Wild Wild West" hang-bang shoot 'em up "Dodge City," not clubbing or combing kicken' in with friends and having a good time. The Arts and Entertainment Center here at City News recently attended a Ruff Rider concert in Mount Vernon, and DMC graced the stage accompanied by his pit bull — not what kind of sense did that make? Maybe it's the counterculture making a statement about who and what they represent? Although quite controversial back-in-the-day, the Black Panthers, who were no strangers to guns, made a statement about what they represented. And as outlandish as they appeared to be in the eyes of white America, what it was that the Black Panthers were doing was active in creating a black revolution, while feeding disadvantaged children. They were sanctioned by a cause and grounded with purpose. What is the purpose of today's culture? I have no clue. It appears toting guns, talking about how much money they have, and the ice and Rolex they wear — a foolish thug revolution. They're not the first culture to have a "hard knock life." Now I have no qualms with those who reserve the right to bear arms to protect themselves and they're loved ones, especially in their homes. But today's culture, it seems, has some kind of whacked out attraction for fire arms — they've become as fashionable among the hip-hop generation as the next Tommy Hilfinger anything. "Puffy" needs a wake up call. His ubiquitous self is, supporting this, supporting that, "Net-Aid," "VH1-Save the Music," etc., promoting positive things. But the reality is this: he was caught speeding through the streets of NYC, after his boy Shyne had just shot up a movie, he's paid a \$100,000 fine. He'll probably buy himself out of this mess, just like he did when he beat up that record exec. There have always been generation gaps, but a certain segment of this generation is either lost in a time warp or thrives off exaggerated drama — this is not the Wild Wild West!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Managing Editor,

I am forwarding this letter to your office regarding the Appellate Division of the New York granting the motion of four white New York police officers, who were charged with killing Amadou Diallo to move the trial from the Bronx to Albany County. This action denies the Honorable Judge Patricia Williams (who is black) and the 12 million Bronx residents their constitutional right to participate in the jury trial.

This action to move the trial was done without the consideration of even trying to empanel a fair jury of twelve. Such a statement is a slap in the face and implies that Judge Williams and the 12 million Bronx residents are incapable, incompetent and biased to uphold the constitution.

of these United States of America. Amadou Diallo lived in the Bronx, he was killed in the Bronx and the four white police officers who shot him were from the Bronx grand jury for second degree murder.

Therefore, I demand and appeal for federal intervention to bring this trial back to the Bronx or that this trial be taken over by the federal government. It appears that the power is to be protecting their own.

As Brother Malcolm X once stated, "As long as you are south of the Canadian border you are south." New York City is certainly not Mississippi, but is south of the Canadian border.

Your cooperation is most appreciated.

Respectfully
William E. Frazier

Jury whitewash of police killing of Stanton Crew

By Assemblyman William D. Payne

The unconscionable exoneration of four police officers who shot and killed unarmed young man, Stanton Crew, on Tuesday, 1999, was not unexpected.

The Morris County grand jury's unwillingness to impartially mete out a just decision in the case is symptomatic of the prevalent racist atmosphere which permeates that criminal justice system throughout the state of New Jersey. When this crime against Mr. Crew was committed by state and local police, I wrote Attorney General John Farmer to appoint an independent special prosecutor to investigate this case. The attorney general ignored my letter of June 15 and appointed Prosecutor (NEED FIRST NAME) Danger to conduct that which was obviously a biased probe intended to clear the police officers.

Dangler had publicly indicated his bias in the case by immediately ruling out any racial overtones in it even before the investigation commenced. The outcome of the so-called investigation was obviously influenced by Prosecutor Dangler and his

predetermined conclusions.

All fair-minded citizens are outraged by the Morris County prosecutor and grand jury's callous and contemptuous disregard for truth and justice in this another case where a pattern of racism prevails. Serious questions remain in this case and the attorney general would be ill-advised to again ignore the seriousness of this case.

These citizens must not be lulled to sleep for themselves against a system which is overwhelming and overpowering.

In order to begin to address these conditions, I am recommending that the New Jersey Black and Latino Caucus summon the attorney general to meet with them to devise strategies to effectively correct the flaws in the state's criminal justice system. I am recommending that the caucus convene a conference with the New Jersey State Conference of NAACP branches to coordinate the efforts in this initiative, and I recommend expeditious passage of the legislative package designed to address many of the deficiencies existing within the attorney general's office within the state police.

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

(NNPA) — There was much hand shaking, back slapping and headline grabbing quips by advocates of a King Memorial by the National Capital Planning Commission unanimously approved the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C. However, buried underneath the euphoria and behind the headlines, the small item that went virtually unnoticed was the remark by the project chairman that it will cost millions to build the memorial.

After all design of the memorial is officially approved they have seven years to raise the cash to build the memorial. Then the question is: Who should pay for the King memorial?

The obvious answer is that those who benefited the most from the epochal social changes of the King inspired and led Civil Rights Movement should pay. That means virtually everyone, since practically anyone who draws a breath on the planet has reaped the rewards of that movement.

The civil rights movement had a global sweep. It ignited or profoundly influenced labor struggles, anti-apartheid battles in Africa and Asia, social-gospel crises in Latin America, student and pro-democracy movements in Europe, the gay and lesbian movements, the peace movements, as well as ushering in a new age of economic and social justice for Americans of all colors.

The civil rights movement also remolded and demonstrated much of law, politics and theology in America. In fact, the broad reach of King's shadow even extended to conservatives, many of whom have shamelessly misappropriated his remarks about a colorblind society in order to hammer affirmative action and social programs.

White Southern politicians, who fought tooth and nail against King, who he was alive, have rode the crest of the white backlash to the civil rights movement to reemerge as major players in national politics.

They all owe their political debt to King and should pay, no one has benefitted more from the gargantuan social changes

that he inspired than Blacks. Here are two compelling reasons why they should make their solemn mission to bankroll the King Memorial.

The first reason is the total remake of Black America. The second reason is money. The eternal media and public image of Black communities as a vast wasteland of violence and despair in permanent crisis and chaos of false, phony and self-serving in the three decades since the Civil Rights Movement smashed the barriers of legal segregation.

White Southern politicians, who fought tooth and nail against King when he was alive, have rode the crest of the white backlash to the civil rights movement to reemerge as major players in national politics.

tion, this is how Black America has benefited and changed.

- According to a recent census bureau report released in February 1999, nearly nine out of ten Black Americans aged 25-29 are high school graduates and 15 percent have college degrees. College enrollment among Blacks has soared to 40 percent over what it was a decade ago and the high school drop out rate for Blacks is only marginally higher than that of non-Blacks.
- Black American median income continues to grow and the drop in poverty rates is nearly 50 percent of the overall drop in poverty in America.
- Twenty percent of Black Americans

California's Proposition 21 hurts people of color

By David Muhammad

(NNPA) - We have all seen the horrifying images of young people going to their schools and unloading their firearms at their teachers and classmates in the past few years. And if we tune out our nightly news, we constantly hear about violent crime.

A recent study revealed that reporting of crime is at an all-time high. So much so that we tend to believe that crime is rising. The reality is different though.

Violent crime is at a record low. It has been on a steady decline in the past few years. Violent crime among juveniles has significantly reduced as well.

Supporters of Proposition 21 hope voters miss the facts and will be misled by sensational reporting. Prop. 21 is an initiative California residents will vote on in the March 2000 election.

The proposition, initiated by former Governor Pete Wilson, will expand the controversial "three strikes" law to include young people up to adults in adult facilities, significantly increase the amount of crimes that juveniles can be charged with and hundreds of millions of new tax payer dollars on incarcerating our children. For example, the bill reduces the amount of vandalism that constitutes a felony to \$400.

When you include the cost of material and labor for the clean-

up, this could be a young person writing his name on a wall. If he is caught three times doing it, he could go to jail for the rest of his life. Is this what we want for the future of our children?

Wilson and the boys have once again crafted a deceptively worded piece of legislation. With Prop. 209 the so-called Civil Rights Bill that equated affirmative action programs with race, Wilson and the boys have once again crafted a deceptively worded piece of legislation.

The fact is that not one dollar has gone toward the prevention of crime. If the \$300 million that was to initiate this would use was actually spent on violence prevention programs, there might have been a positive effect. Instead, this bill mandates that more juvenile offenders be tried as adults as young as 14, and be sent to state prisons with adult criminals as young as 16.

In Texas, where similar laws are already on the books, Rodney King, a 16-year-old charged with robbing a store and causing \$50,000 worth of damage to a fence, was sentenced as an adult and confined to the state prison. After a trial, he was beaten and raped by an adult who was allowed into his cell, he hung himself.

When I remember when I was a juvenile delinquent I went in and out of juvenile hall and at the age of 15 I was charged with

attempted murder. Though the case was dropped, I can't help but think about what would have happened if I was convicted under such laws as are being proposed today.

I might still be in jail. I would have never gotten involved in a violence prevention program, go out of a life of crime, finished high school and went on to college.

Wilson would have never come home from college as a professional journalist and a facilitator of a juvenile hall writing program that seeks to help other at risk youth the way it was helped.

Any plan to lock more people up will disproportionately affect people of color. There are more than one million Black people in prisons across America. Though Blacks only makeup 13 percent of the overall population, we are nearly 60 percent of America's inmates.

In California, 71 percent of adult and 68 percent of juvenile prisoners are people of color. In California, the word "retention" was removed from the penal code years ago. So no longer is it even a goal of incarceration to rehabilitate inmates. California has significantly increased the spending for prisons while defunding education.

When it is cheaper to send a child through college to send it to lock them up, legislators would rather go the easy route, the

route that has become popular due to sensational media reports.

Any plan to lock more people up will disproportionately affect people of color. There are more than one million Black people in prisons across America.

Though Blacks only make up 13 percent of the overall population, we are nearly 60 percent of America's inmates.

California has the largest prison population in the country and has more inmates than any other state, both adult and juvenile.

Seventy-one percent of adult prisoners and 86 percent of juveniles are people of color. These numbers call for a state of emergency.

When you include the fact that California prisons are known to be the most corrupt institutions in the country with prison guards shooting and shooting inmates without reason, trafficking drugs, denying medical treatment, and even raping inmates, prisoners are more likely to become even more violent. We want to subject our children to such a system?

Even California's top cop, Attorney General Bill Lockyer agrees that the current prison boom is detrimental. Speaking at a violence prevention conference hosted by the California Wellness Foundation, he said, "We've tried detention, now let's try prevention."

Renewing connections to Africa in 2000

By Leonard R. Robinson Jr CEO, The National Summit on Africa

(NNPA) — As we enter the new millennium, it is heartening to see a renewed interest in America's foreign policy.

There is evidence of this renewed passion almost anywhere you look these days. Whether it's citizens demonstrating against the previously unheard of World Trade Organization, concerns over maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East and the Balkans, or Americans participating nationwide in the National Summit on Africa.

Standing on the cusp of a new age, it is appropriate to reflect on why so many of the so-called apathetic Gen-Xers are rallying in a era of internationalism not seen since the early days of the Cold War.

State of the art communications technologies, like the computer, Internet, cellular phones and the airplane have succeeded in conquering time and distance. The old cliché of the global village has overnight become a reality. And yet, the roots go deep.

In 1997, the National Summit on Africa commissioned a nation-wide scientific survey of American attitudes about Africa. It was conducted by a highly reputable national survey and polling firm.

Among the findings, it noted that while most Americans are woefully ignorant about distant regions like Africa, over 70 percent of those surveyed had a real desire to learn more about these places.

Over the years, when reading the newspapers, listening to the radio or watching the news, many of us agonized over the many trials and tribulations on the continent. At times, some of us were even compelled enough to become involved. From time to time, some of us marched in the streets to protest apartheid in South Africa, some of us wrote letters, made telephone calls, or sent money to charitable causes seeking to end hunger or disease in Ethiopia or even Somalia. Some of us most Americans are woefully ignorant about distant regions like Africa, over 70 percent of those surveyed had a real desire to learn more about these places.

But in nearly every case,

there was little to sustain our activism beyond a change in the next news cycle. So we moved on and Africa receded from our lives until the next time.

You wanted to do more, didn't you? You wanted some action, because you thought there was more the government could do, didn't you? You wanted a change in policy many times because you

had a connection with the people of these many countries (whether concrete or in spirit) and you knew that Africa wasn't getting a fair shake. Africa mattered to you, and it still does.

Leonard R. Robinson, Jr is president and CEO of the National Summit on Africa. www.africansummit.org or call 800-934-3418.

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Religion

Religious Freedom Act acted on by Senate

TRENTON—Recently, Senate President Donald DiFrancesco commented that S-2291, The Religious Freedom Restoration Act, was considered in the Senate Judiciary on Jan. 6, and the entire Senate was expected to vote by Jan. 10, the last day of the lame-duck session.

Under this bill, religious institutions would be exempt from various municipal regulations. Pursuant to the MLUL, houses of religious worship are designated "inherently beneficial use," and therefore receive certain deference in zoning and land use procedures.

However, the direct impact of S-2291 on land use regulations totally disregards the health and safety of residents, DiFrancesco said. For example, religious schools would be exempt from the same zoning, building, fire and health codes that public institutions of learning would be required to comply. In fact, the application of any local law would be open to challenge. Municipal government would be vulnerable to unnecessary and expensive litigation. This can have a chilling effect on local government and property taxpayers.

Invisible motivators rule our lives

By Janious Stanton

"Our beliefs are essentially invisible. Our values, beliefs, concepts and desires are cause. Our experiences and the conditions of our lives are effects," James Paige Empowerment Facilitator

"Ideas rule the world. Those ideas are you tap dancing to?" Bob Law? When we look at another person we see their physical form, but unless we are open to spirit or have developed our psychic or clairvoyant faculties, we cannot see what motivates them their ideas, thoughts or feelings.

What makes a person risk his or her life to save a total stranger?

Do we act irrationally, spontaneously, impulsively or after long deliberations? Do we do what we think we can get away with, or what is right? Are our actions dictated by other factors such as our self-image, what we believe to be true about ourselves and the world?

The West downplays the vast spectrum of cognitive options available to people in leading healthy, well-balanced lives. In most cases this is both deliberate as well as the accidental ignorance of what it means to be a self-actualized, fully-functioning person. In American society we are conditioned to be outer directed, non-critical conformists, which allows us to be influenced and manipulated on the sly by authority figures, the mass media and our peers; many of whom don't have our best interests at heart.

Life is lived from the inside out and energy follows thought. From our internal thinking (or lack thereof) flows internal emotional and physiological responses that are invisible which lead to external behaviors. The Creator has given us the capacity to think whatever we want. Our thinking is truly unlimited. We have the faculty of imagination, the ability to create in the privacy and secrecy of our minds any type of image, scene or mental situation we can think of.

This is how things get done, made and accomplished in life. It starts in our minds, then in a desire or motivation to do, be or create. Most of us have stunted our intellectual and imaginative growth. We follow others to think for us, they image our world and we acquiesce to their thinking, wishes, beliefs and agendas. Self-actualization means taking control and responsibility for your thinking. Do it.

Please submit your calendar items to:

Religion Calendar

City News

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Floyd Flake and Cissy Houston headline MLK tribute

NEWARK—Former U.S. Representative Reverend Floyd Flake and gospel legend Cissy Houston will lead the speakers and singers who will gather at Newark's New Hope Baptist Church, 106 Sussex Ave., on Sunday, Jan. 23 at 3 p.m. for the 12th annual tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sing In Praise of King.

The first celebration of the new century, entitled "A Millennium Celebration," will be a multicultural salute to the Nobel Peace Prize winner whose vision and energy changed America and the world. Flake will speak on economic development and community initiatives, two of King's greatest concerns.

"Floyd Flake is an outstanding example of the power of faith, social leadership and nonviolent action," said Newark Mayor Sharpe James. "He has served the nation in Washington, authoring legislation to support our inner cities and their people, and he has built a mighty force for good in the Allen A.M.E. Episcopal Church in Queens."

James said the church, under Flake, has become a national leader for community-based faith organizations. I look forward to hearing his words of hope and empowerment at the tribute.

Flake has been senior pastor of 12,000 member Allen A.M.E. Church for 23 years. Under his leadership, the church has undertaken expansive commercial and residential development, created 11 corporations, a 500-student private school, and various commercial and social service enterprises.

As a U.S. Congressman, Flake developed numerous legislative ini-



Rev. Floyd Flake

tatives to revitalize urban commercial and residential communities, to encourage investment in inner cities. He has also written best-selling books, appeared on numerous news shows, and serves on major national advisory boards, such as the American Education Reform Foundation and The Initiative for a Competitive Inner City.

Newark native Emily "Cissy" Houston began her musical career at age five, when she began singing, and touring the country with her family gospel group, The Drinkard Sisters. She hit the top ten on the R&B charts in 1968, establishing a permanent influence on pop and R&B genres. She won Grammy Awards in 1997 and 1998 for Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album.

Mother of singer and actress

Whitney Houston, Cissy has performed with her daughter in venues like London's Wembley Stadium. Today, she also serves as president and chief executive officer of The Whitney Houston Foundation for Children, Inc.

Other performers include New Hope Youth Explosion Choir and Donald Malloy, an award-winning gospel singer.

"We will unite our voices in song and prayer to Dr. King, and move forward together to continue his great legacy," said James.

Other area MLK events: A celebration concert at the Riverside Church, Saturday, Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at 490 Riverside Drive in New York City between 120th and 122nd St. For more information, call (212) 478-6722.

The concert will feature the choral and instrumental group Melodious Accord, led by conductor Alice Parker; the Riverside Choral Singers, led by conductor Helen Cha-Pyo; the Riverside Inspirational Choir, conducted by Nedra Neal; and organist Timothy Smith.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Luncheon at the Gilligan Student Union at New Jersey City University, sponsored by the Lee Hagan African Studies Center will feature Dr. James Forman as keynote speaker. He served as executive secretary for Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

It will take place January 19, from noon to 2 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. For information, call (201) 200-1524.

Dr. Forman also is the president of the Unemployment and Poverty Action Committee.



Prayer Corner

"In all ways acknowledge him"

God sent a prophet on an errand to Bethel (1 Kings 13:1) and he instructed him not to eat bread, nor drink water, nor use the same route on his return (1 Kings 13:9). Well, another prophet convinced him to go to his house, eat and drink water (because he was a prophet also, the pressure was on, but he lied). As a result of his disobedience to God's instructions to him, he met a lion on the way back that chewed him to pieces. So, it doesn't matter who's talking, or who's giving advice and directions — even if the pressure is on, if it is not of God, we must close a deaf ear to it. When we don't know what to do, the best thing to do is nothing. If it's meant to be, God will cause the best thing to happen for us. So, we must not move, stay right there! If you move without God's directions, you lose. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord" Psalm 37:23.

This weekly word of inspiration is sent to you from the Alliance of Black Lucent Employees Garden State Chapter.



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We honor and salute the man whose legacy continues to inspire hope and make so many dreams a reality.

NORDSTROM

Acts of Kindness & Justice for 2000 honor Dr. Martin Luther

By Martin Luther King, III

My father would have celebrated his 71st birthday in the first month of the new Millennium. While I did not have the chance to work by his side, through his actions and his writings I have learned the lessons of a lifetime that kindness and justice are the foundations of a noble life and that individuals can change the world.

My father helped lead the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955 because he was inspired by the courageous act of one woman who stood up for the dignity of all people by sitting down at the front of a bus. Rosa Parks challenged America to honor its belief that all people are created equal, and she proved that individuals can change history.

The bus boycott also proved that everyone can participate in building a movement. It was a million small, yet powerful acts — including a year of walking to work and marching for justice that touched the hearts and minds of people across the nation.

I would like to invite educators and students across America to carry my father's legacy into a new century by participating in the third annual Do Something Kindness & Justice Challenge, an innovative school-based leadership program that encourages students in grades K-12 to perform Acts of Kindness — helping others — and Justice — standing up for what is right — for two weeks following the 2000 Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday — Jan. 17-28.

Each day during the two-week education initiative, millions of students nationwide will learn about the values of responsibility, compassion, honesty, nonviolence and moral courage while performing Acts of Kindness and Justice in their schools, homes and communities.

In its first two years, more than 2 million students from 25,000 schools performed Acts of Kindness and Justice to keep my father's dream alive. Judy from Venice High School in Los Angeles collected clothing to help the homeless in her neighborhood.

Cassandra from Utah visited a friend who was terminally ill, hugging her and helping her do things she couldn't do by herself. Sarah from Alhus Middle School in Oklahoma helped pack supplies for hurricane victims. These young people show that individuals can make a difference when they choose to take personal action to improve their community.

Every school in the nation is invited to participate. For two weeks, teachers spend approximately 15-25 minutes each day teaching the virtues of kindness and justice.

Students write down their individual Acts of Kindness and Justice, and each school posts their Acts on Do Something's interactive website — www.dosomething.org — keeping track of their community-building efforts and sharing stories and experiences with students nationwide. Schools without Internet access can submit their Acts by mail. Top performing students and schools will receive national recognition and are eligible to win prizes.

Educators can register for the 2000 Do Something Kindness & Justice Challenge on the Internet at www.dosomething.org or by calling Do Something at 212-973-1189. Each teacher who registers will receive a free Educator Guide with an age-appropriate curriculum, instructions for posting Acts of Kindness and Justice on the Internet and incentives to encourage student participation.

Through the Do Something Kindness & Justice Challenge, young people across America are putting into practice the ideals to which my father devoted his life. If incidents can commit to one day of kindness and justice, then they can commit to a week of kindness and justice. A week becomes a year, a year becomes a lifetime.

On Jan. 11, 2000 of Newark Do Something Team students from schools throughout Newark marched from Central High School on Central Avenue to a press conference held at Newark's City Hall Auditorium in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Iris Lozana was the MC for their press conference.

The Secretary of State, DeForest Soaries, Jr., and Superintendent of Newark's Public Schools Marion Bolden spoke at the ceremony honoring a man of true conviction. They challenged Newark students to commit as many acts of kindness and justice during this two-week period as they possibly can.

The KJ Challenge, which originated in Newark five years ago, has since been adopted by other cities and towns across the nation and is the largest Dr. Martin Luther King celebration in the country. This year the KJ Challenge will take place during the two weeks following Dr. King's birthday, which is Jan. 15, but will be nationally observed on Jan. 17, with the KJ Challenge running until Jan. 28.



Iris Lozana

“Newark Do Something” meet the KJ Challenge



From left to right: Omar Cruz, Lizandra Collazo, Jessica Gonzalez, Iris Lozana, Alicia Waller, Darrell Finley, Gabriel Irtzary, Alisha Mayers, Nakia Newton, and Dwayne Livingston.



Display presented at “Do Something” events



Gabriel Irtzary, a ninth grader at Barringer High School, hangs out at the Newark Do Something building.

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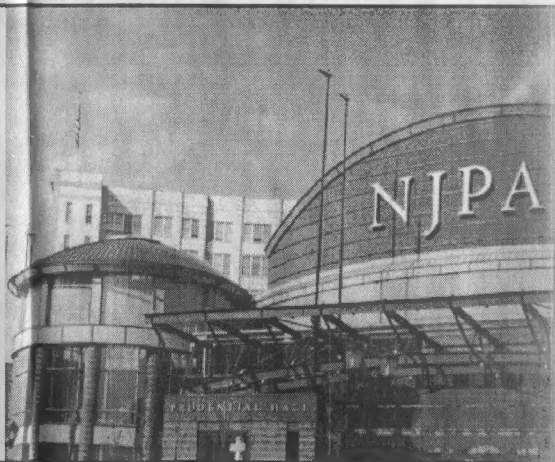
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Local Briefs

youth for showcase

TRENTON - New Jersey Network Public Television is searching for young Hispanic performers to compete in the 14th Annual NIN Hispanic Youth Showcase Talent Search 2000. The event is recognized as the largest talent contest for Latino youths in the tri-state area. Winners take home \$500 in cash scholarships and prizes, and are featured on the NIN Hispanic Youth Showcase program that will air on NIN in early Summer 2000. To be eligible, contestants must be of Hispanic heritage, perform as soloists and provide their own accompaniment. Contestants perform in two divisions, either in the teen competition, ages 13-17, or in the junior competition, ages 8-12. Each division contains three categories which include dance, vocals and instrumental. Two winners are selected from each category. A total of 12 winners are chosen. Since NIN began broadcasting the NIN Hispanic Youth Showcase in 1986, more than 2,000 talented Latino youths from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania have participated. Many winners have gone on to appear in television programs, commercials and film. Performing arts professionals serve as the Showcase's judges, who make their decisions based on originality, interpretation, creativity, and professionalism of the performance. Samples of talent on audiotape, video or resume are encouraged. Contestants must also provide the address for NIN's Newark studio. To register and receive additional information, call (201) 648-7085/7340.

Garden State Ballet School holds spring scholarship tryouts

NEWARK - Judy Jaron, Director of the Newark School of the Garden State Ballet has announced Spring Scholarship tryouts for boys and girls ages 7 to 12 years old. Tryouts will be held on Jan. 15, 22 and 29. Children who are selected will enter a three week Introductory Program offering instruction in ballet and modern. The Introductory Program is open to children who have not had any previous training. Annually, 150 youngsters participate in the Introductory Programs, held in the Fall, Spring and Summer. At the conclusion of the Introductory Program, students who demonstrate interest and readiness to learn will be eligible to continue their training under partial or full scholarship assistance. The School's scholarship program is supported by grants from the Geraldine R. Dodge and Victoria Foundations and contributions from major corporations. The non-profit school, established in Newark since 1951, enjoys a national reputation for a "tradition of excellence," in training, exemplified by the many graduates who have pursued successful professional careers in major dance companies.

The School also offers Pre-Ballet classes for children ages 4, 5 and 6 years.

For complete information as to the time of the scholarship tryouts, applicants may contact the Newark School of the Garden State Ballet at 45 Academy Street, (973)623-1033.

Essex County College gets \$3.1 million grant

Essex County College (ECC) has been awarded two four-year grants totaling more than \$3.1 million from the U.S. Department of Education for the college's Upward Bound and Veterans Upward Bound programs. The college will allocate \$440,340 for Upward Bound and \$333,993 for Veterans Upward Bound. Betty Foster, director of special programs at ECC, said ECC can expand funding in excess of \$1.9 million for Upward Bound and \$1.3 million for Veterans Upward Bound over the four years of the funding cycle. Foster said the new round of funding will enable Upward Bound to continue its expanded program of education and mathematics, including calculus.

Participants also have the opportunity to tour various colleges along the eastern seaboard. Enrollment is open to 135 students who attend Newark's Central, East Side, Science, Barringer and Malcolm X Shabazz high schools. Upward Bound is a pre-college program providing academic instruction, tutoring, counseling and support services after school and on Saturdays. The program also offers an intensive study program during the summer.

Veterans Upward Bound provides counseling, tutoring and information on placement into colleges, universities, technical and vocational schools based on professional assessments of the career, occupational and educational needs of participants.

POP to march on King holiday against police brutality

NEWARK — Martin Luther King, Jr. is well known as a civil rights champion and the Peoples Organization For Progress will assemble to honor him by 'actively engaging in the struggle for justice on his holiday,' according to civil rights advocate Lawrence Hamm.

The organization will rally and call upon all community residents to march against police brutality on Jan. 17 in the cities of Orange and Morris-town.

"We are marching to protest the deaths of Earl Faison and Stanton Crew and to demand justice for all victims of police brutality," said Hamm during a recent press conference held at the Women In Support of the Million Man March headquarters, 53 Lincoln Park, Newark. The purpose for the marches are to keep the attention focused on the issue of police brutality and as part of an ongoing effort to fight police brutality, end racial profiling, and bring about meaningful police reform.

The first march will begin at 12 P.M. at the Orange Police Headquarters, 593 Lincoln Avenue. The protest will begin there with the family of Earl Faison supporters and end at Orange City Hall, 29 North Day Street. Earl Faison, a 27-year-old Black man, was shot and killed by a police officer while in the police custody in the aftermath of the



Stanton Crew's sister, Ingrid (left), and mother attended a recent press conference held at WISOMMMI mansion.

murder of Orange police officer Eugene Carmine. Reportedly, an Orange policeman testified that in the presence of officers robbed, beat and pepper-sprayed Faison directly in the face while he lay handcuffed on the floor

moments before he died. Following the march in Orange, marchers will proceed to travel by

charter bus to Morrisstown, where the group will join the family of Crew and the local chapter of the National Action Network, headed by Bishop Joseph E. Woods. Crew, an unarmed Black motorist, was killed in June when two state troopers and two local police officers fired 27 shots at his car when it came to a stop after being chased on Route 80.

POP's demands for police reform include the immediate suspension of all officers who did bodily harm to Faison, establishment of independent police review boards with subpoena powers for state and local police, racial bias testing, sensitivity training, and the promotion of more minority officers to supervisory and leadership positions.

The movement will be joined by other victims of police brutality including Max Antoine, a victim of police brutality, who has filed a civil suit against the Irvington Police Department, and Elmer Reed a victim of racial profiling and police brutality. Rev. Ernest Sabb, pastor of the New Life Baptist Church in Newark, who is a victim of unjust police harassment resulting from a Newark Police Department sting operation will be a participant along with his attorney.

Call NCN at (973) 643-7711 to reserve seats on the bus to Morris-town.

"Like It Is" host to speak at memorial breakfast

PLAINFIELD - Gil Noble, producer and host of WABC-TV's weekly public affairs series, "LIKE IT IS," will be the keynote speaker at the 34th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast given by The Area Club of Frontiers International of Plainfield.

The event, scheduled for Jan. 17, will be held at 9 A.M. in Plainfield High School, 920 Park Avenue.

Formed in 1936, the Frontiers was established to give Black Americans the opportunity to support members of their community.

"Black men were denied membership into the local service clubs," says Aaron Keys, a longtime member of

the group. The Frontiers International Headquarters is based in Philadelphia, Pa. and has maintained a strong community involvement throughout its history.

At the Martin Luther King Breakfast the club will present two scholarships to local area high school students. The awards range in excess of \$500 per student.

Each pupil is recommended by the high schools they attend and must meet various academic requirements.

Awards for community service will also be presented during the event. Last year the Plainfield Recreation Council received a service award and the Muhlenberg Regional

Medical Center was honored with the Community Spirit Award.

"The awards inspire the organizations to continue to do good work in the community," said Noble.

World renowned for his gutsy interviews, Noble is recognized locally and nationally as a dedicated journalist whose work has been a part of the struggle of Black Americans for advancement.

Noble spends long hours of research and investigation to insure consistently high quality programming for LIKE IT IS.

Other community awards, numerous industry awards (including 7 EMMY'S) a Lifetime Achievement

Award from the National Association of Black Journalists, and five Honorary Doctorates are attributed to his prestigious resume.

"LIKE IT IS" offers a rare opportunity to our viewers of all races to look at current and past events through an African American perspective," said Noble.

Throughout his career, Noble has conducted notable conversations with international leaders such as Sekou Ture (Guinea), and Robert Mugabe (Zimbabwe) He has also interviewed well-known celebrities including Bill Cosby, Wymon Marsalis, Muhammad Ali, Arthur Ashe, Jesse Jackson, Louis Farrakhan, and many others.

Gil Noble

Crossroads Theater to get \$250,000 from NJRA

TRENTON — The New Jersey Redevelopment Authority recently approved a \$250,000 loan guaranteed to support a \$500,000 working capital credit facility to Crossroads Theater. As part of a financial partnership with NJRA, Millennium Bank and the Minneapolis Working Capital Fund, the interest-bearing agreement will provide a long-range stabilization program for Crossroads Theater Company.

"This support fits NJRA's mission to help spur economic development in our urban communities," said DCA Commissioner Jane Kenny. Board Chairman, NJRA, "Crossroads Theater has made a positive economic and cultural impact on the region."

Crossroads, theater now on Livingston Avenue, was co-founded by Ricardo Khan in 1978 and was the recipient of the 1999 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in the U.S. Their relocation in 1991 was part of the economic development strategy for the revitalization of downtown New Brunswick. Since 1978 the body of work provided by Crossroads Theater involved 100 productions and 36 world premieres by some of the nation's leading artists, including Bill Cosby, Ruby Dee, Ozzie Davis, Rita Dove, Stephanie Mills and Leslie Uggams.



Crossroads Theater

They have consistently delivered high-caliber performances to sold out audiences. Crossroads' boost to the New Brunswick economy exceeds \$2.6 million over the past year alone. The NJRA provided technical assistance in the financial packaging of the Crossroads Project. NJRA's other projects in New Brunswick include the Helderich Plaza, the Puerto Rican Arts Board, Daycare Center and the refinance of 122 Howe Lane for Renaissance Community Development Corporation.

The NJRA was established in 1996 to spearhead economic development efforts in New Jersey's urban

communities. Funding for the authority was derived from an initial appropriation of \$9 million provided by the New Jersey Urban Redevelopment Act.

The NJRA also manages the NJ Urban Site Acquisition program. For information on NJRA, call 609-292-3739.

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League of Women Voters to host community forum

EAST ORANGE - The League of Women Voters of East Orange will host a community forum on Jan. 20 at the Patrick Healy Middle School, 116 Hamilton Street, East Orange.

The forum will focus on education and issues that affect the City's schools. Superintendent of Schools Dr. John Howard, Jr. and David G. Sciarra of the Education Law Center have committed to participate on the panel.

Commissioner of Education, David C. Heise, has been invited to participate on the panel. The League scheduled this forum to provide an opportunity to the community to obtain answers to questions and concerns that they may have.

"There exists tremendous confusion over the school district's budget, lack of books and teacher supplies as well as the value of the series of the film, 'Dragonfly,'" said League president Pamela Simmons.

"This forum will provide members of our community an opportunity to get answers to their questions."

Simmons said members of the community have not had the privilege of having their questions answered by such esteemed and knowledgeable panelists being available at the same time. She believes that the format of this forum will give the community a clearer picture of the state of education in East Orange and what steps are planned or should be planned to improve it.

Alexander Richardson of Livingston, who is a New Jersey League of Women Voters-trained moderator, will preside over the forum.

Three or four present and former students will be asked to provide brief testimonials regarding their schooling experience in East Orange at the beginning of the forum.

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Florio names Don Jones as Senate campaign manager

NEW BRUNSWICK - Jim Florio's U.S. Senate campaign announced today that Don Jones, of Jones and Associates, has joined the campaign in a political outreach capacity with a particular emphasis on the Black American community.

"Don brings significant state and national political expertise to the campaign and I'm looking forward to working with him and doing a better job of reaching out to all communities throughout New Jersey," said Florio.

"With his extensive experience and ties contracts around the state, Don will be a tremendous asset to my campaign."

Jones, who lives in Burlington County, ran Black American Outreach programs for Ted Kennedy's last United States Senate race in 1994, for Parris Glavinetti's campaign for Governor of Maryland in 1998 and for the Clinton/Gore campaign in '92 and '96. Additionally, Jones has managed over 10 successful Congressional campaigns.

"I'm thrilled to be working for a great Democrat like Florio," said Jones. "He's a fighter for the poor people and that's something we need more of in Washington."

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PATERSONIANS:

The Paterson Public School District invites you to attend a Job Preparation Open House.

If you are a Paterson resident and a certified teacher or have a four-year college degree and an interest in teaching, find out how you can be a member of The Paterson Public School District Family!

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

How to become certified The Alternate Route Provisional Program How to enter the Teaching Profession via substitute teaching route

Explanation of tenure, salary and benefits Interviews being conducted on site

Field, Science, EOC, Vocal Music & Outdoor Teaching Opportunities available immediately. Recent graduates welcomed.

Saturday, January 22, 2000 8:30am to 12:30pm John F. Kennedy High School 61-122 Freshman Avenue

Our children need you!

Reserve your space by January 14, 2000. For more information call (973) 881-1078

An event fit for a King



Vickie Winans



William H. Gray III



Jubilation Choir



NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center's *FamilyTime Series* presents its third annual **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration** on Wednesday, January 12, 2000 at 7 p.m. in Prudential Hall. This spirited musical celebration includes appearances by award winning gospel vocalist Vickie Winans, special guest speaker William H. Gray, III, and the acclaimed NJPAC Jubilation Choir under the musical direction of Stefanie R. Minatée. This event is presented as part of the Bell Atlantic Passport to Culture: FamilyTime Series, and is sponsored in part by Target Stores.

Vickie Winans, who will perform with the Jubilation Choir, is one of gospel's most respected artists. Singing in church since the age of eight, Winans' sound blends traditional with contemporary gospel. Her most recent recording, "Vickie Winans" Live in Detroit, features the spirited lead single, "Already Been to the Water," as well as a companion video. Each of Winans' five earlier albums have garnered numerous nominations and awards, including four Grammy nominations, three Excellence Awards, and a Stellar Award. She has performed on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," "The Arsenio Hall Show" and at Carnegie Hall. Winans also starred in the Broadway musical "Don't Get God Started," and has hosted the syndicated gospel variety show, "Singsation," for the past decade.

Former Congressman William H. Gray, III, President and CEO of the United Negro College Fund for the past nine years, has a resume rich with accomplishments. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1978, he was the first Black American to chair the House Budget Committee.

As Chairman of the Democratic Caucus and later as Majority whip, Mr. Gray was the highest-ranking Black American ever to serve in Congress. In these roles, he was a leading advocate for strengthening America's educational system and for implementing economic sanctions against South Africa. As special advisor to the president in 1994, Mr. Gray assisted in developing and carrying out policy to restore democracy to Haiti and subsequently received the Medal of Honor from Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide for his efforts.

The NJPAC Jubilation Choir, established in October of 1998 under the auspices of NJPAC's Arts Education Department, is a singing aggregation committed to Black American sacred music with an emphasis on gospel. Under the musical direction of Stefanie R. Minatée, the Choir represents the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, vowing to uphold its high standards of performance excellence and to display New Jersey's finest singers.

The Choir members range from 16 to 80 years of age and hail from nine counties in northern and central New Jersey and from New York City. The Choir made its debut on January 13, 1999 at NJPAC's 2nd Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, which featured Evangelist Shirley Caesar as special guest. The Choir has also performed at NJPAC with Queen Latifah, Isaac Hayes, Michael Bolton and the Jenny Burton Experience.

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center, located on the Newark Riverfront near Gateway Center, Newark's Penn Station, and the Ironbound District in downtown Newark, NJ, is the first major performing arts center to open in the Northeast in more than 30 years and the sixth largest performing arts center in the United States.

Tickets may be purchased by telephone at 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

'I have a dream'

"... I say to you today, my friends, though, even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up, live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream... I have a dream that one day in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today... I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low. The rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountain side, let freedom ring." And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that. Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi, from every mountain side. Let freedom ring...

When we allow freedom to ring — when we let it ring from every city and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last, Free at last, Great God a-mighty, We are free at last."

HeartBeat

January 12—January 18, 2000

City News B3

Heartbeat Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

JERSEY CITY - A Support Group for newly-diagnosed breast cancer patients from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Jersey City Medical Center, 1st Fl., Conference Room, C bldg. For information, contact Shannon Lanciotti

NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for parents who lost children in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), 7 p.m. 1-(800)-545-7437

NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for parents with children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-6600

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people who lost loved ones 7 p.m. (732) 745-8565

NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital offers a breast augmentation and reduction seminar 7 p.m. (732) 940-7700

NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for people dependent on nicotine, 5:30 p.m. (732) 937-6555

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for women with breast cancer 7 p.m. (732) 745-6680

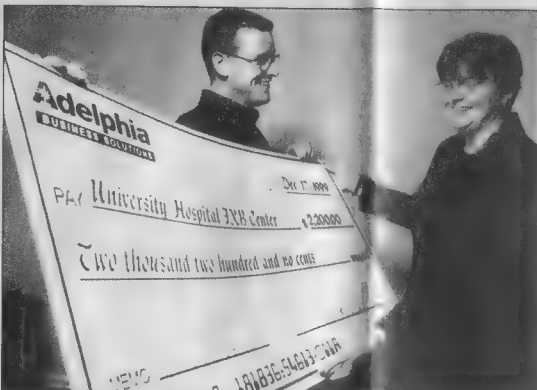
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital offers a class on prenatal nutrition, 7 p.m. (732) 745-7930

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

NEW BRUNSWICK - St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a support group meeting for parents with children in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) 7 p.m. (732) 745-6600

Adelphia Business Solutions gives donation to children's HIV center



SOMERSET — Barak Byers, general manager, Adelphia Business Solutions, presents a \$2,200 check to Dawn D'Orlando, MSN, RN, CPNP of the Francois-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Children. The center operates an internationally recognized program for the care of children with mother-to-child transmitted HIV disease. Adelphia Business Solutions is committed to supporting communities in New Jersey and is building an all-fiber optic telecommunications network throughout the state.

Sarcoidosis symposium scheduled to educate about rare disease

SOMERSET — Twenty-one of the country's leading Sarcoidosis physicians will serve on the panel of a medical conference Jan. 27 and 28 at the Ukrainian Culture Center in Somerset.

The symposium is intended for the medical community, Sarcoidosis patients and care givers, and all who wish to learn about Sarcoidosis.

Sarcoidosis produces many different types of symptoms and masquerades as other illnesses. It is found worldwide and may affect more than one-million people in the United States.

The illness mimics tuberculosis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, cancer, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, Hodgkin's Disease and the symptoms of AIDS. In many

cases a patient may go years without a correct diagnosis.

The distinct symptoms which separates Sarcoidosis from other diseases are granular tumors or growths in affected areas. Although there is no known cure for this disabling disease, it can be treated when diagnosed.

Subjects to be discussed during the conference will consist of involvement of the lungs in Sarcoidosis, eye disease in Sarcoidosis and an historical and political perspective centering on research and health care, along with a lecture on alternative therapies in the treatment of the disease.

For additional information, call the National Sarcoidosis Resource Center at (732) 699-0733.

Volunteer blood donors needed

Only two-percent of the general population give blood. Last year in Union County the American Red Cross provided 14,000 units of blood to Union County hospitals, yet only collected 10,000 units of blood from county residents.

The Blood Center of New Jersey is announcing locations and asking healthy adults to call and

sign up to donate. "Donations are critical during the month of January," said Judy Daniels, BCNI spokesperson. "The nation's blood supply often hits critical levels." For that reason, President Clinton has declared January 2000 National Volunteer Blood Donor Month. The theme is 2000 Reasons to Give Blood.

The following dates and locations

are where you can give blood: Jan. 14 Essex County Vocational School, North 13 Newark, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Jan. 15 Knights of Columbus, 94 Age St., Belleville, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Edison Job Corps, 500 Sunfield Ave., Edison, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Jan. 16 Our Lady of The Mount, 167 Mt. Bethel Road, Warren, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The New Jersey Black Church HIV/AIDS Initiative

Black people are 56% of the HIV/AIDS cases in New Jersey.

Your church is invited to join a program to develop and strengthen your church's AIDS Ministry.

The cost of this program is your commitment.

First Meeting:
10:00am - 3:00pm
January 22, 2000
Ramada Inn, Newark Airport
500 Routes 1 & 9 South

For details and requirements,
contact Rev. Alberta Ware
1-888-225-6243

Presented by
The Balm In Gilead
1-888-225-6243

BALM IN GILEAD

Sponsored by
Newark District of the AME Church (Project Faith)

The Plainfield and Vicinity Clergy Association

The North Jersey Baptist Missionary Association

National Black Presbyterian Caucus

New Jersey AIDS Partnership

New Jersey State Health Department

DuPont

Your chances of losing your baby are twice those of a white mother.

Do you want to do something about it?

So do we.

Black mothers are three times as likely as white mothers to lose their babies in their first birthday.
The Emergency Department, Black and Senior Services wants you and your baby to get the care you need — before, during and after delivery.
To learn more, call us at 1-888-414-BIBS.

Black Infants • Better Survival

1-888-414-BIBS

www.state.nj.us/bib

Christine Todd Whitman, Governor

Wednesday

January 12 — January 18, 2000

Music Reviews



Kevin Edmonds 24/7 (RCA Records)

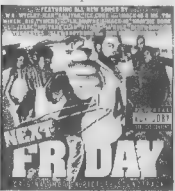
Kevin Edmonds, one-third of the former trio After Seven, has teamed up with brother Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds and Kevin Evans to produce a solid R&B debut solo that brings back the days of the Tone/Toni/Tony! sound of the early 1990s.

This sound is not so much of an old sound, but a solid sound that is missing in music today.

Some of the standouts on this album includes "Never Love You," a solid very smooth slow ballad that sets the tone for the album and "24/7," both of which center around a visionary ideal of what love should mean between two people.

The album picks up with "I Want You More," and "Anyway," two upbeat tracks, each with catchy melodies.

The album has the obvious influence of Babyface's sound on most of the tracks, but for those who are looking for that solid R&B sound that was realized by other successful R&B groups like Tone/Toni/Tony!, En Vogue, and Mint Condition this album will be sure to please.



Various Artists Next Friday Soundtrack (Priority)

Just like the movie "Friday" appealed to a diverse audience from various backgrounds with hip-hop music taste, the soundtrack to the sequel does the same.

The roster of artists assembled on this project ensure an almost foolproof album with at least one track to please every kind of listener. For those listeners true to the West Coast sound, Ice Cube drops lines with Mack 10 and Ms. Toi on "You Can Do It," and for those who like their hip hop with more of an East Coast flavor, Wu Tang delivers on "Shao!n Worldwide."

Wyclef Jean's "Low Income" is an entertaining piece that epitomizes the album's laid back feel, and Aaliyah sings the best track on it, "I Don't Wanna," a slow, enduring ballad.

Other artists featured on the album are Enimem, Ja Rule, newcomer Lil' Zane (he rapped on 11/2 "Anywhere"), Pharoahe Monch, Krayzie and Bizzy Bone, and Isley Brothers featuring Ron Isley.

However, in its glory might be some disdain: there may be more West Coast oriented music. But if listeners are open to good music, this should be an enjoyable album.

Upcoming music releases

January 18
(Dates are subject to change)
Run DMC, "Crown Royal"
Various Artists, "Our Souls Have Grown Deep Like the Rivers: Black Poet Read Their Work"
Various Artists, "Smooth Grooves: After Hours"
Louis Armstrong, "Love Songs"
Tina Turner, "Love Songs"
Barry White, "Anthology"
Deniece Williams, "Love Songs"

Stars come together to create 'Sounds of a Better World'

By Rob Williams
Staff Writer

Becoming a parent can often bring perspective to life and the world a person. And for music producer Jim Papoulis, his experience as a first-time father was no different.

Six years ago when Papoulis' wife Stephanie gave birth to their first child Caryl, a thought was delivered to Papoulis that would become a worldwide project.

"When I had my first child, it made me look at the world differently," said Papoulis during a recent telephone interview. "How could they [the children of today] possibly grow up to be responsible people [in the world with its problems today]?"

Inspired by that thought,



Geoffrey Holder

Papoulis decided to create a project that talked about these issues and would inspire the humanity in people. Involving the voices of children choral and established artists, Papoulis is seeing this project come to life, in the form of "Sounds of a Better World," a new album distributed in Samhain Distribution and owned by Chik Songwriter and legend N. Rodgers.

Papoulis, by a chance musical score to PBS documentary series Mercedes Lincoln, and Mercury commercials, and has used other projects, called on many of the people he worked with in the past to help the project.



Martha Wash

MUSIC NOTES

Erykah Badu album expected in March

Although Erykah Badu has been busy with her child, Seven Serius Benjamin, son of OutKast member Andre Benjamin, and her big screen supporting role in "The Cider House Rules," she is currently working on her next album for a March release.



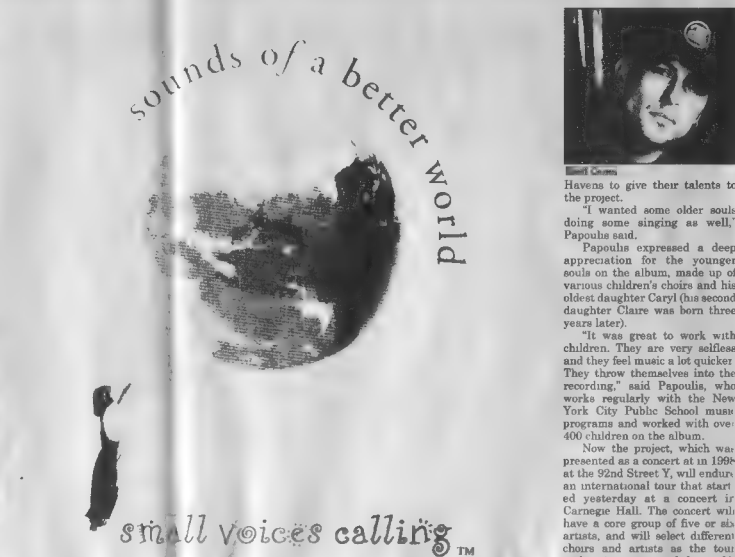
Erykah Badu

The follow-up to Badu's 1997 live album (featuring music from her debut album "Baduizm") will feature her duet with the human beat-box Rahzel of The Roots, which was a single off his album "Make the Music 2000."

702 takes on the world with tour

Motown R&B group 702 are currently on a European mania tour promoting their latest album.

The Las-Vegas natives are scheduled to appear in Switzerland, Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom before starting their tour through the United States.



Producer Jim Papoulis' latest project "Sounds of a Better World" (cover pictured above), was released this week in time for the concert, featuring some of the children choral on the album, and guest stars like Martha Wash and Geoffrey Holder.

ast become a reality.

The project features various international artists including Martha Wash (former Weather Girl and the voice associated with the C&C Music Factory sound), Wendy Moten, and well-known children's choral like the Boys Choir of Harlem and the Norwegian Children's Choir.

The project took off when Papoulis first asked entertainer Jeffrey Holder to help with the project. Holder, known for his roles in "Boomerang" and "Anne," and as the voice for the 7UP Uncola dot campaign, was more than happy to help. And soon Papoulis assembled many other artists he worked with who shared the same response to the album.

"Every artist I asked has some humanity in their nature somehow," Papoulis said.

One of those artists Wash was the first single off the

"When I had my first child, it made me look at the world differently."

— Jim Papoulis
Creator

album, "Listen to the People," which has at least five remixes that have crept into radio stations nationwide everywhere.

Jim asked me if I was interested in doing it. I had worked

with him on and off since the early 1990s. He always wanted to work with me and I wanted to work with him," said Wash.

This was something he really felt he wanted to do.

Besides their working relationship, Papoulis thought he would be the right person for the uptempo club song.

"I wanted someone who was incredible with what they did, I

wanted a dance voice. She's the queen of dance music," said Papoulis, who helped Wash record "Strike It Up." "When I approached her, she was very receptive [to the project]."

In addition to their humanity, Papoulis also chose the artists to add an age diversity to the project. He tapped the shoulders of Odette, Joan Baez, and Richie



Small Voices Calling

Havens to give their talents to the project.

I wanted some older souls doing some singing as well," Papoulis said.

Papoulis expressed a deep appreciation for the younger souls on the album, made up of various children's choirs and his oldest daughter Caryl (his second daughter Claire was born three years later).

It was great to work with children. They are very selfless and they feel music a lot quicker. They throw themselves into the recording," said Papoulis, who works regularly with the New York City Public School music programs and worked with over 400 children on the album.

Now the project, which was presented as a concert at 159th at the 92nd Street Y, will endure an international tour that started yesterday at a concert in Carnegie Hall. The concert will have a core group of five or six artists, and will select different choirs and artists as the tour makes its way around the world. The proceeds will go to the Small Voices Calling Foundation which is spearheading the pro-



Small Voices Calling

ject. The tour, sponsored by the Hyatt International hotel chain, will visit 40 locations, including Shanghai, China; Buenos Aires, Argentina; and London.

The project was also filmed as a documentary, which will be available on DVD. The documentary, which lasted over 300 hours, will show the whole recording process of the album over the four-year duration.



Art Ensemble of Chicago

in January

The Art Ensemble of Chicago & World Saxophone Quartet to perform at NJPAC

The critically acclaimed Art Ensemble of Chicago and World Saxophone Quartet will perform in a double-billing at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Jan. 16 at 8 p.m. in Prudential Hall. The Art Ensemble of Chicago, comprised of Roscoe Mitchell, Malachi Favors, and Famoudou Don Moye, began 1967 as the work of Lester Bowie in association with the Association for the Advancement

of Creative Musicians. Eventually the group founded its own label, and released its first album, "Kabala," in the late 1970s. They released a string of albums to a positive response, and were recent named Acoustic Jazz Group of the Year by Down Beat magazine.

World Saxophonist Quartet featuring David Murray, John Parcell, Oliver Lake, and Hamiet Bluiett, have been called the original band since Miles Davis, Ornette Coleman and John Coltrane by the New York Times.

The group recently completed a recording called "Selm Slave: A Tribute to Miles Davis" and "Miles."

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

NEWARK — Club E presents Wednesday Night Salsa featuring Will Vega and Friends. 5 p.m. (973) 642-2244.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents its Third Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. 7 p.m. 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

NEWARK — Club E presents Thursday Night Jazz. 5 p.m. (973) 642-2244.

NEW YORK — Jazz at Lincoln Center presents an evening of jazz and bossa nova at the Stanley H. Kaplan Pantheons. 8 p.m. (212) 721-6500.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theatre presents The Windham Hill Winter Session. 8 p.m. (732) 247-7200.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theatre presents The Windham Hill Winter Session. 8 p.m. (732) 247-7200.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

ATLANTIC CITY — The Atlantic City Jazz Foundation presents Smooth Jazz Saxophones. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information, call (609) 344-4435.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

NEWARK — Club E presents Wednesday Night Salsa featuring Will Vega and Friends. 5 p.m. (973) 642-2244.

NEW YORK — Jazz at Lincoln Center hosts a symposium on Latin jazz entitled "Jazz Talk: Panamericana" at the Stanley H. Kaplan. 7 p.m. (212) 721-6500.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

NEWARK — Club E presents Thursday Night Jazz. 5 p.m. (973) 642-2244.

MANASSAS — The Two River Theater Company presents the play "Uncle Vanya." Call (732) 345-1400 for information.

NEW YORK — Jazz at Lincoln Center presents its Latin Jazz Symposium at the Cuban Embassy. 8 p.m. (212) 721-6500 for information.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theatre presents Richard Scary's Broadway play "1776." 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. (732) 247-7200.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents the World's New Music featuring Maria Joao and Mario Laginha. 8 p.m. 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

NEW YORK — A national theatre audience development program "Kids' Night On Broadway" will be held 7 p.m. For additional information, call (212) 302-4111.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26

TEANECK — The American Stage Company presents the play "The Crystal Goblet." Call (201) 692-7744 for information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

NEW BRUNSWICK — The Crossroads Theater presents the play "Yellow Eyes." Call (732) 249-5560 for information.

THEATRE CLAIR — The Luna Stage presents the play "The Queen of Montebello." Call (973) 744-3030 for information.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28

NEW YORK — Jazz at Lincoln Center presents its "1st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Series" at the Apollo Theater. 10:30 a.m. (212) 875-5084.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

NEW BRUNSWICK — The State Theatre presents Richard Scary's "Busytown." 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (732) 247-7200.

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) presents the LadyM Black Men-basse featuring the Mighty Clouds of Joy. 8 p.m. 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

NEWARK — Three Broadway veterans will join David Comendy and the NJSO for a fun evening of favorite show tunes in a program titled **BRAND NEW BROADWAY**. This program begins at 7:30 p.m. at NJPAC.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

NEWARK — Three Broadway veterans will join David Comendy and the NJSO for a fun evening of favorite show tunes in a program titled **BRAND NEW BROADWAY**. This program begins at 8:00 p.m. at NJPAC.

The Sun sets on "Next Friday" before the plot even begins

(R) Next Friday (New Line Cinema)

Director: Steve Carr
Cast: Ice Cube, Mike Epps, John Witherspoon, Don D.C. Curry, Tamala Jones, Lady of Rage, Kym E. Whitely, Jacob Vargas, Tommy "Tiny" Lister, Clifton Powell, Sticky Fingaz, Lisa Rodriguez, Lobo Sebastian, and Amy Hill.

In previous interviews, Ice Cube said initially he was not going to make a sequel to the cult classic "Friday," since he couldn't get all of the original cast together again.

Cube supposed to have stuck with that thought.

"Next Friday," the highly anticipated sequel to the 1995 movie about two friends who have a very eventful Friday, goes back to where the original left off, with Deebo (Tommy "Tiny" Lister) on the ground after he "knocked the f---er out" as Smokey (Chris Tucker) so eloquently put it. Now it's next Friday, and word around the neighborhood is Deebo is planning to break out and seek revenge against Craig Jones (Ice Cube), who knocked him out the hero of the first movie.

Two local photographers featured on NJN program

New Jersey has long been a flower pot of talent in arts and entertainment, and the New Jersey Network (NJN) will profile some of that talent Jan. 22 in its latest production, *Close-up x 4*, premiering at 11:30 p.m.

The series "State of the Arts" will focus on the work of four photographers, two of whom reside in New Jersey.

The program talks about the portraits taken by photographer Don Camp, Philadelphia, which was inspired by the Million Man March and landscapes from the perspective of aerial photography, and Landon resident Owen Kandler.

Host Amber Edwards also talks with one of photography's pioneers, Ruth Bernhard, 90, who has been featured in the Princeton Art Museum.

The program will air on NJN on Jan. 22 at 11:30 p.m. and Jan. 23 at 6 p.m.



Notice on the happenings in entertainment

Nia Long heads for small screen

Actress **Nia Long**, known for her roles in "The Best Man," "Soul Food," "Boyz in the Trap," and "Friday," has landed her own development deal to create a television series, according to Fox's New York Post.

The actress is also in negotiations to join **Martin Lawrence** in his next television project, Fox's "Big Momma's House."

Dave Chappelle gets HBO Special

Actor and comedian **Dave Chappelle**, known for his roles in "The Black Street," "Half Baked," "The Nutty Professor," and "You Got Mail," has inked a deal with HBO to perform his own hour.

Langston Hughes Library expands into state-of-the-art facility

NNPA — The Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center, located in the Queens Borough of New York, recently marked a milestone in its history with the grand opening of a new, 24,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art building.

Named for writer and poet, Langston Hughes, the library contains the Black Heritage Reference Center. The collection is made up of over 40,000 volumes of material written about and related to Black culture.

The collection is unique because it can be accessed from any library in the world through "Interloan Request," a process by which libraries borrow materials from each other at the customer's request.

Materials have circulated as far away as Canada and Europe.



Day-Day (Mike Epps) and Craig (Ice Cube) pictured here in a scene from "Next Friday."

Our hero still has no job, and his concerned father, William Jones (John Witherspoon), decides to move Craig to a Los Angeles suburb where he can be safe and live with his late-winning Uncle Leroy (Don D.C. Curry), his son Day-Day (Mike Epps) and Leroy's sex-crazed wife Suga (Kym E. Whitely).

Craig stirs up trouble again, this time with his cousin Day-Day, which includes getting Day-Day and his co-worker Ronch (Justin Pierce) fired from Pinky's by the

short-curl-sporting owner Stanley (Clifton Powell), and helping Day-Day cope with a fatal attraction from a former babe named D'Wana (Tamala Jones), who is as much a pregnant with a baby Leroy (Don D.C. Curry), his son Day-Day (Mike Epps) and Leroy's sex-crazed wife Suga (Kym E. Whitely).

The story picks up with a reposition notice stating that Uncle

LeRoy needs to pay thousands of dollars in taxes that the family does not have.

So Craig comes to the rescue by plotting to steal the money from the Latino thugs who live across the street, J.R. (Jacob Vargas), Little Joker (Lobo Sebastian), and Big Joker. Also living with the three jokers is Carla (Lisa Rodriguez), who Craig catches an eye for when he first moves in.

Even though this movie has a roster of funny comics and established actors, it fails to meet the

standards of its predecessor or even stand alone as just a funny or good movie. Epps fails at his attempt to be the comical sidekick to Craig, using his put-out whining dialogue that proved to be the ultimate demise of the film.

The real tragedy of this movie sets in when it is realized that Epps is supposed to provide most of the comedy in the movie. Making the movie worse, Jones and Lady of Rage's portrayal of sisters sabotaging Day-Day's life serves only as a pitiful subplot that rivals the pathetic love interest subplot that is vaguely hit upon. Also, the movie relies on stereotypes that stretch beyond the black culture, enlisting the thugged-out Latino crew that no self-respecting Latino would find amusing.

The only amusing (little as there is) comes from Curry and Witherspoon, who stick to their own style of comedy. Rodriguez and Cube play their parts well; maybe the result of the fact their roles are not challenging.

Between the stereotypes and the non-comical element of this supposed comedy, your next Friday should not be spent seeing "Next Friday." — Rob Williams

For the Bookshelves of African Americans

Anthony Stith *Breaking the Glass Ceiling* (Firefly Books Ltd.)

New year, same problems. And adding to that, new solutions. At least a start to them.

Anthony Stith, current editor of *Savior Fare*, draws from his experiences working at such corporate powerhouses as industrial insurance, Cigna Healthplans, KPMG, and others and examines the recurring issue of equal opportunity in the workplace.

The book explores the myths, exposes the realities, and provides the solutions to the issues that will be of paramount importance at the beginning of this century. Using quotes from the bible, famous people, statistics, and African proverbs, Stith provides a montage of focus and a vision of execution to breaking the glass ceiling.

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Stephen Holden, THE NEW YORK TIMES

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—*Richard Schickel, TIME*

Upcoming flicks January 14

Eye of the Beholder (Destination Films)
Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai (Artisan Entertainment)

My Dog Skip (Warner Bros.)
Next Friday (New Line)

Play It to the Bone (Touchstone)
Supernova (MGM)

"A dramatic knockout with the power to blow you away! Denzel Washington proves yet again he's a champ!"
—*Los Angeles Times*

DENZEL WASHINGTON (NEW YORK POST)

THE HURRICANE (NEW YORK POST)

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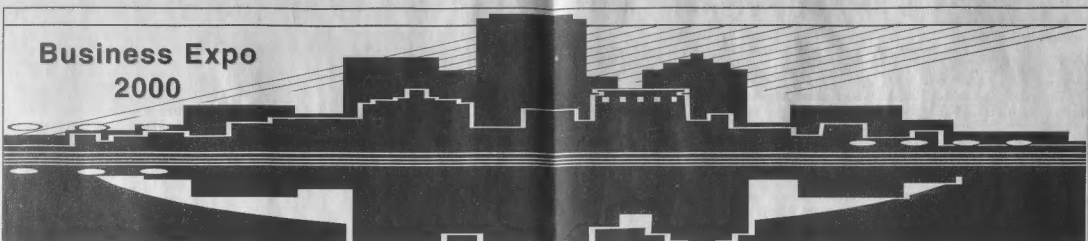
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City Sports

January 12 — January 18, 2000

Sports Shorts

Colgate Women set winning pace early in season

BROOKLYN — The nation's largest track series, with a participating field of more than 12,000 girls and young women, opened on December 30, setting the pace for the 2000 indoor track season.

Among the highlights of the opening preliminary meet was a double win by Natasha Staten of William Penn High School in Philadelphia. Her 200 meters (25.0) meters (7.0), sets a very fast pace for the season.

Meet Director Fred Thompson says this year's High School field should continue to lead the nation throughout the season with impressive scores. A contingent of athletes from Philadelphia leads the predominantly Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens competitors after the first week.

Athletes of all ages across the nation can follow the scores, times and results of races in their own grade division at www.colgategames.com.

Ray Rhodes was too friendly for Ron Wolf

By Greg Bescham

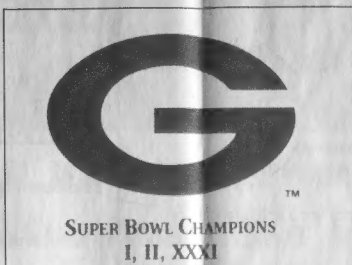
GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Ron Wolf spent three years as an Army intelligence officer stationed in Europe. If there's anything he hates, it's a lack of discipline.

That's the main reason the Green Bay Packers general manager abruptly fired coach Ray Rhodes and his staff on Monday, hours after Green Bay (8-8) ended a disappointing season by missing the playoffs for the first time since 1992.

"Is he a different coach than I thought he was? Yes," Wolf said. "What I think we have to have here is a well-disciplined, tough, hard-nosed football team. We don't have that here."

When Wolf hired Rhodes one year ago to replace Mike Holmgren, he thought Rhodes would apply a firm hand to the Packers. Holmgren browbeat and prodded the team through seven winning seasons, including two Super Bowls and one championship, before leaving for the Seattle Seahawks.

Instead, Rhodes proved to be a lax disciplinarian who gave his players two days off during the week before their final regular-season game, which they



needed to win to have a chance at a playoff berth. Green Bay beat Arizona 49-24, but Dallas won put the Cowboys in the playoffs.

Though Rhodes was tremendously popular in the locker room, Wolf said the Packers obviously didn't respond to Rhodes' methods. He felt swift preventive action was necessary to reverse the team's slide out of the league's upper echelon.

"I think Ron thought we

were too friendly with Ray," safety LeRoy Butler said. "And maybe some of us were. With as many young players as we had, you need discipline. We didn't always have that."

Most of the Packers didn't agree with the move. As they cleaned out their lockers before the start of a long offseason, several criticized Wolf's quick trigger finger.

"I was shocked," said Dorsey Levens, who capped a strong

season by scoring four touchdowns Sunday. "I didn't think Ray deserved what he got. I don't think he got a fair shake. I was a Ray Rhodes fan, and I thought he'd be around for a little while."

"I didn't really believe it," said defensive end Vaughn Booker, one of the Packers who became free agents at season's end. "It's just sad to see such a good person lose his job, especially when I can't see how it's directly his fault."

The NFL's 1995 Coach of the Year has now been bucked off the coaching carousel twice in just over 12 months. Philadelphia dismissed Rhodes one day after the 1998 season ended, and the Packers hired him less than three weeks later.

A year ago, Rhodes was visibly shaken as he spoke about his firing from the Eagles. On Monday, he was calm and collected as he gave a brief statement before leaving without answering questions.

"First of all, it's not a funeral, people, OK?" he said. "Coming in here is a big situation, a big job. We didn't get this thing done this year. I'll be the last to make excuses. Business is business."

Ponder This...



By Greg Moore

N.F.L. = not for long black head coaches

After only one season, the Green Bay Packers decided to fire its head coach Ray Rhodes and both his offensive and defensive coordinators who are also African-American.

Talk about a bum deal! Once again the NFL has demonstrated a callous indifference to the need to diversify its coaching ranks. Clearly, firing a guy in the first year of a four-year contract speaks of unfairness and quite possibly racism.

And if there is one thing black coaches have very little use for is an extra dose of racism. Why coach could reasonably be expected to implement his philosophy, his program in only one year?

I admit, Rhodes did inherit a team which has enjoyed enormous success the past few years, including a Super Bowl victory in 1997. However, this year's Packer team is certainly not the Super Bowl champions of '97. This year's team did not include all-pro defensive lineman, and future hall-of-famer Reggie White. This year's team had to deal with injuries to standout Dorsey Levens and former league MVP Brett Favre.

For some odd reason, Packer's General Manager Ron Wolf refused to take any of these factors into consideration when he decided to tell Rhodes to hit the road.

Rather, Wolf cited "a lack of team discipline" as the primary reason for firing Rhodes.

Clearly, Rhodes was a player's coach, the type of coach who possessed a special ability to relate to his players, and treat them like the men that they are.

Whether or not this translated into a lack of discipline on the practice or playing field is one question.

Quite another question relates to how Wolf reacted to the sight of a black coaching staff bonding with a predominantly black team. The term threatened is one word which comes to mind.

The type of threatening sensation which afflicts many whites when a too many black folks are congregating at the water cooler in the work place.

The sort of feeling which prompts some whites to characterize any group of black men in excess of two as a gang.

Make no mistake about it, pro football's executive suites are not immune to the same sort of sinister impulses which drive and undergird racism and bigotry in this country. Is Ron Wolf a racist?

I really couldn't tell you. But what I can tell you is that owners and managers of professional sports teams like to enjoy a certain level of comfort with the coaches they employ, and they expect those coaches to be loyal to management—even it means sacrificing relationships with players.

On this score it appears that Rhodes' cozy relationship with many of his players raised suspicions in the hearts and minds of Green Bay management. And it is for these reasons that corporate America prefers to put blacks in charge of other blacks only if the black put in charge can overtly and conspicuously demonstrate an allegiance to the corporation. Ray Rhodes is no company man or house Negro.

He has a reputation as a straight-shooter who calls it as he sees it, and corporations have little use for black managers who call it like they see it.

Unfortunately for Rhodes, he never got the opportunity to prove that a close relationship with players is not necessarily synonymous with disloyalty to management.

However the Packers did prove that the term "N.F.L." as applied to the career of black coaches may soon stand for "Not For Long."

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